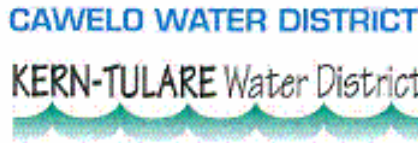


# Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Management Group



February 8, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington  
901 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Grant  
Program Scoping Meeting

Dear Ms Billington

The Poso Creek IRWMP Regional Management Group (RMG) submits the following  
comments on the IRWMP Grant Program Scoping Meeting:

- 1) DWR's proposal to use Prop 50 money to additionally fund several implementation grant proposals that scored highly in the first round.

The RMG respects the intent of the DWR to expedite implementation funding, nevertheless, if the DWR's proposal is implemented, the Southern San Joaquin area of the State of California will be left as an un-funded area of the state and essentially excluded from the statewide competition for implementation funding through Prop 50. The RMG requests the DWR and the SWRCB to not change the rules mid-way through the funding allocation for Prop 50 and to allow for the Southern San Joaquin area of the State of California to be included in a second, competitive round for Prop 50 funding.

- 2) DWR is soliciting input on how it structure the "round two" IRWMP grant program.

- a. Performance Based vs. Competitive Program

Regardless of the outcome of the DWR's proposal on Prop 50 funding, the RMG supports implementing at least a portion of the Prop 84 and 1E funding as soon as possible. The RMG has a draft IRWMP containing strategies and

projects of statewide importance ready to implement, as do others within our funding area as defined in Prop 84 and 1E. Thus, we urge the DWR to act quickly with either a performance based or competitive program as a method for DWR to administer the implementation funding to those groups who have invested much time and money in developing an IRWMP. Furthermore, since Prop 50 was designed for each IRWMP group to compete with others in the state for funding, it did not require or necessarily foster coordination between IRWMP groups. The RMG is encouraged about the opportunity that Prop 84 and 1E brings to move quickly to implementation of water management strategies and projects within Funding Areas. The RMG is concerned as to how long the DWR will take to implement a defined, acceptable process for IRWMP in the Tulare Lake Funding Area to proceed to implementation, and the added costs associated with coordinating with other IRWMP groups.

b. IRWMP Standards – emphasis on planning prior to funding implementation projects

The RMG is concerned about added cost involved with conforming to a different IRWMP standard. The RMG has a draft IRWMP that contains water management strategies and projects ready for implementation. These water management strategies and projects are being considered because they meet the objectives for the Region in formulating the IRWMP. They are basically the same whether described using the minimum guidelines adopted for Prop 50 or using the suggested strategies from the State Water Plan. The RMG is concerned about the added cost to modify their draft plan to meet new requirements.

c. Disadvantaged Communities

The RMG recommends DWR fund as much of the DAC needs from the unallocated \$100 million as practical, thus, helping to alleviate any inequity in competition for implementation funding.

d. Regional Definition

The RMG requests DWR consider how a Region is defined in connection with a project within a Region that has benefit to a community outside of the Region. For instance, if the RMG supports a water quality treatment facility that benefits water banking partner of Southern California, is Prop 84 funding designated to another Funding Area eligible to pay for a facility located in a separate Funding Area?

e. Stakeholder Involvement

The RMG plans to continue its successful stakeholder involvement regardless of how “round two” of the IRWMP Program is administered. The RMG is concerned about the affect of changing rules for competitive grant funding has on stakeholders.

**Poso Creek IRWMP Management Group**

The Regional Management Group is composed of member agencies located in a portion of the Tulare Lake Basin Hydrologic area. This Regional Management Group shares a common goal of managing substantial portions of the surface water and groundwater resources of the region located north of the Kern River and the Kern River fan. These managed resources include water supplies from the State Water Project via the California Aqueduct, Central Valley Project via the Friant-Kern Canal, Kern River, Poso Creek, and from the groundwater basin.

Please call Mr. Paul Oshel, District Engineer, at (661) 758-5113 to answer questions.

Sincerely,

By Paul M. Oshel, District Engineer, Semitropic Water Storage District  
on behalf of the following eight entities

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